

SHOULD RESTRICT FEDERAL CONTROL

Secretary Nagel Opposes Un-
limited Power Over
Big Business.

DANGER IN AUTHORITY

Self-Regulation of Corporations
He Would Have Guid-
ing Principle.

Salient Features of Secretary Nagel's Report

Powers of the proposed commis-
sion to regulate big business should
be well defined and restricted.
Opposes giving such commission
authority similar to that of Inter-
state Commerce Commission. It
should not be empowered to fix
prices.

Self-regulation of business, to
greatest extent consistent with
public welfare, should be guiding
principle of legislation.
Corporations should be compelled
to make automatic reports regard-
ing capitalization, business, profits,
controlling interests, etc.

Bureau of Corporations should as-
sist Federal courts in reorganizing
concerns dissolved under Sherman
antitrust law.

Approves an international confer-
ence to secure greater safety of life
at sea, and raises question whether
United States government should
take over all sea coast wireless sta-
tions.

Suggests creation of board of ar-
bitration to settle railroad labor
disputes.

During fiscal year 1912 \$38,172
immigrants admitted; 70,000 aliens
naturalized.
Recommends repeal of law for
five-year closed season sealing in
Alaska.

Washington, December 15.—Charles
Nagel, Secretary of Commerce and
Labor, would sharply define and restrict
the powers and discretion of the pro-
posed Federal commission to regulate
industrial corporations. In his annual
report submitted to President Taft to-
day, the secretary opposes the en-
dowment of such a commission, if
finally created by Congress, with far-
reaching powers equal to those exer-
cised by the Interstate Commerce Com-
mission over railroads. He disapproves
the suggestion that the commission
have authority to fix prices of com-
modities.

Expounding his doctrine for govern-
mental supervision of business, Mr.
Nagel says:

"Instead of pressing Federal regula-
tion as far as possible, the real dis-
cussion in legislation affecting the
country's business should be to pre-
serve, to the greatest extent consistent
with the public welfare, the element of
self-regulation. The effort should be
to lay down principles of conduct suf-
ficiently specific to impose desired re-
straints, at the same time leaving a
wide field for individual achievement."

May Take Too Much Power.

If such a trade commission is well
defined, the secretary says, "it may
serve the general purpose of giving
large industrial and commercial con-
cerns much needed Federal authority
and control. It is possible by lodging
in the commission well-defined discre-
tion, an intelligent purpose may be
served. But the obvious danger is
that such a commission, once created,
will soon be vested with further powers.
The disposition will undoubtedly
be to give it authority to fix prices
and conditions of operation, similar
to that which the Interstate Commerce
Commission now exercises with respect
to railroads and their rates. In other
words, there is a strong tendency to
disregard the fundamental distinction
between a public carrier and a private
enterprise."

At the outset, at least, in the judg-
ment of Mr. Nagel, the general powers
and the degree of discretion of the
commission should be carefully re-
stricted.

To make more effective the work of
the Bureau of Corporations and pave
the way for the constructive legislation
regulating business, the secretary
urges that Congress provide for the
automatic submission by corporations
engaged in interstate trade of certain
fundamental data, such as facts relat-
ing to capitalization, property, busi-
ness, investment, profits, officers, di-
rectors and controlling interests. Such
information, subject to due protection
against unnecessarily disclosing mat-
ters of no real public concern, adds
the secretary, would permit more
prompt publicity than is possible un-
der the present method of laborious in-
vestigation in each specific case.

Aid in Reorganization.

Mr. Nagel believes the Bureau of
Corporations should act in an advisory
capacity to the Federal courts in
formulating plans of reorganization
of corporations found to be in viola-

tion of the Sherman antitrust law,
because he says the questions involved
in restoring competition in a great
business depend as much upon intimate
knowledge of conditions in an industry
as upon questions of law. Although
he thinks the bureau already has au-
thority to render this assistance, he
suggests that it be specifically author-
ized by statute.

In connection with the awakening
of the world by the Titanic disaster to
the urgency of greater safeguards of
life at sea, Mr. Nagel indorses the pro-
position to hold an international con-
ference, and calls attention to the need
of laws governing personnel of crews
with a view to better guaranty of the
fitness of men so employed.

The interest of the United States in
this subject is keener than any other
country in the world, not excluding
Great Britain and Germany, the sec-
retary points out, because 2,000,000 per-
sons annually cross the ocean to or
from this country.

A year's operation of the act of Au-
gust 12 last requiring the licensing of
all wireless apparatus will demon-
strate, in the judgment of Secretary
Nagel, whether in this country, as
abroad, the government should take
over all sea coast wireless stations and
operate them jointly for public and
commercial purposes.

Board of Conciliation.
A board of conciliation and arbitra-
tion to take the place of the provisions
of the Erdman Act for the settlement
of disputes between railroads and
their employees is suggested by Mr.
Nagel. The secretary points out that
as Dr. Charles P. Neill, commissioner
of labor, and Judge Knapp, of the
Commerce Court, who constitute the
board of mediation under the Erdman
Act, will in time have to retire there
is danger "that with the retirement of
one or both, the advantage of the very
admirable system which they have
built up may be lost."

Immigration port conditions, es-
pecially at New York, where the
quarters are declared inadequate, are
still unsatisfactory, says the secretary
in urging larger appropriations for
the service.

One feature of the secretary's report
indicates that some American citizens
who formed part of the great emigra-
tion to Canada during recent years
are probably contemplating returning.
Many of them are applying, the sec-
retary says, for the bulletins issued
by the division of information of his
department setting forth the labor
needs, and small investment oppor-
tunities in the United States, espe-
cially in the agricultural districts.

During the fiscal year 1912 there
were admitted to the United States
838,172 immigrant aliens, a decrease of
46,415 as compared with the previous
year. On the other hand, 332,262 em-
igrant aliens departed, an increase of
37,266 over 1911. Of the 1912 immi-
grants more than fourteen years of
age, about 24.5 per cent were illiter-
ate, the same percentage as 1911. Southern and Eastern Europe continues
to supply the greatest proportion of
immigrants to the United States.
Nearly 70,000 aliens were naturalized
during the fiscal year.

Results Are Satisfactory.
The arrangement with Japan govern-
ing the admission of Japanese and
Koreans to the United States is giv-
ing satisfactory results, the secretary
says. During the last fiscal year 5,-
258 Japanese were admitted to this
country proper and 2,231 to Hawaii.
The department admitted 5,374 Chinese
during the same period.

Secretary Nagel asks that Congress
repeal the provision of the recent fur
seal law imposing a closed season in
Alaska for five years. Two of the na-
tions which signed the fur seals
treaty with the United States, he says,
have expressed dissatisfaction, as the
law is a substantial impediment by this
government of the position it has
maintained for twenty-five years that
the depletion of the herds was attrib-
utable to pelagic sealing and in no
measure to land killing.

Second Purchase of Fifth Avenue
Property by New York
Financier.

New York, December 15.—August
Heckscher, president of many banks
and mining and real estate companies
and director in a good many more, is
the buyer of the Harry Paine Whitney
property, including the former resi-
dence of Charles W. Morse, at the
southwest corner of Fifth Avenue and
Fifty-seventh Street. The property
has been sold without any restrictions.
Mr. Heckscher will pay \$2,000,000 for
the corner, of which Harry P. Whitney
will take back \$1,750,000 on first mort-
gage at 5 per cent.

The sale of the Whitney house has
caused considerable speculation in the
absence of definite information as to
the future of the Cornelius Vanderbilt
house, on the adjoining corner. This
is the second purchase by Mr. Heck-
scher on Fifth Avenue this year.

The south corner of Fifth Avenue
and Seventieth Street, just opposite
the Lenox Library block, where H. C.
Frick is building a fine residence, was
sold last April to a buyer who con-
cealed his identity. It is believed
Mr. Heckscher is the buyer.

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GILLETTE SAFETY RAZOR COMPANY, BOSTON

DEFINITE POLICY MUST BE ADOPTED

(Continued From First Page.)

Federal lands of the powers and the
property now held by the nation. It is
precisely this policy of practical co-
operation which should be put into
effect. There is no real conflict be-
tween the nation and the States upon
the subject.

Depend Upon Protection.

In general, all of the streams which
are susceptible of waterpower develop-
ment are also of great importance for
domestic use, for irrigation and for
navigation. All of them depend to
some degree upon protection and aid
of some kind and from some source
for one or more of these uses. In-
creasingly that source tends to be na-
tional and not the States.

"Some of the individual States are
developing effective policies of water
conservation, but it is the Federal gov-
ernment after all which is called upon
to make the chief expenditures for the
development of navigation and for the
protection of the forest cover around
the sources and along the watersheds
of both navigable and non-navigable
streams."

way the fundamental differences be-
tween the different classes of agricul-
tural lands still remaining in the pub-
lic domain. The present system is not
flexible enough to recognize the dif-
ferences, he declares, and "greater dif-
ficulties are found in the present laws
or lack of laws with regard to other
parts of the public domain, especially
our timber lands, our grazing lands,
our waterpower and reservoir sites and
our lands containing coal, oil, gas,
asphalt, potash, nitrates and phos-
phates."

Secretary Fisher recommends the
"adoption of constructive legislation
with respect to waterpower develop-
ment and the control and the compre-
hensive application of the leasing sys-
tem to the development of our public
coal, oil, gas, asphalt, nitrates, potash
and phosphate lands, with appropriate
provisions for the protection of pro-
ductors during a reasonable explora-
tion period preliminary to the leasing
of the land." He points to the fact
that in the Appalachian Mountains the
National Forest Reservation Com-
mission is now buying lands upon
which timber can be raised, but not
good for agricultural purposes, for
conserving the waters at the heads of
navigable streams.

Action Is Inexorable.

"It is inexorable," he declares, "to
permit public lands of this character
to be acquired now by private inter-
ests, when we are spending public
money to buy just such lands else-
where, and may have to repurchase
them in the future the very lands from
which the government is now parting."
There are public lands in the West in
a similar situation to those now being
sought in the East, he adds, and these
"should be retained by the government

in order that the streams whose head-
waters they protect may be made as
useful as possible. I am informed
that there exist areas of public lands
on the headwaters of streams in the
West, and particularly in the arid
Southwest, which should be with-
drawn from entry, because if their
acquisition by private interests is per-
mitted, the usual destructive effects
will follow. It is not proposed to in-
clude lands whose value for other pur-
poses is greater than their value to
the community for stream protection."

As to homestead law legislation, the
secretary says he is still of the same
opinion, in spite of a somewhat dif-
ferent law passed last June, that the
homestead section should be excised
from the necessity of reading upon
his land during the first two years
after entry, provided he substituted for
improvement and cultivation of a sub-
stantial portion of the ground. The
law passed, he says, is being admin-
istered to encourage as much as pos-
sible the homestead settlement.

The whole development of Alaska, he
reports, is waiting largely upon the
passage of suitable legislation for the
development of its transportation fa-
cilities and of its coal lands.

As to the reclamation service, he
reports, is waiting confronting that bu-
reau "are rapidly becoming those of
administration, rather than engineer-
ing. Financial and technical ques-
tions of building shrink into insignifi-
cance compared with the more difficult
human problem of dealing with thou-
sands of settlers and of inducing them
to take action along lines which will
lead to their greatest individual suc-
cess."

HELD FOR SWINDLE IN SELLING STOCK

St. Louis, Mo., December 15.—Alleging
a gigantic swindle in connection with
promoting sales of the Buick Oil Com-
pany, of California, the Federal grand
jury here has indicted Benjamin F.
Moffatt, of Chicago, on a charge of
using the mails to defraud. The in-
dictment was returned against Moffatt
Thursday, when the grand jury made
its final report, but was not made pub-
lic until to-night.

Moffatt is now in Chicago, and the
local authorities have been advised
that he will be here Monday and fur-
nish bail. Judge Dyer said he would
fix the bond at \$4,000.

Moffatt is alleged to have repre-

sented the stock of the Buick Company,
which he was selling, as being treasury
stock and not common stock. It is
stated that Moffatt secured 500,000
shares of the Buick oil stock, with
the understanding that he could sell it
at whatever price he could get, and
when the stock was sold to pay 15 cents
a share to the company. The stock was
supposed to be worth \$1 a share.

DR. BOUCHON LEAVES PARIS.

Paris, December 15.—It is reported
here that Dr. Bouchon, who was assist-
ant to Dr. Doyen, the noted surgeon,
has gone to New York to take a posi-
tion at the Rockefeller Institute. Dr.
Bouchon got into a disagreement with
Dr. Doyen over some matters con-
nected with the proposed establishment
of a research institute here, through
the generosity of M. Paris Singer. It
looks now as if a law suit which was
threatened over this matter will never
come up.

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